



## DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO POLICY

Definition of drugs: 'a substance people take to change the way they think, feel or behave.'

(Paragraph 13 in the document from the Department for Education (DfE) Drugs: Guidance for drugs in school.)

### 1. Introduction

1.1 Elizabeth College recognises drug and alcohol education as a key component of its Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco (vaping/snus) Policy. Drug and alcohol education forms a key component of the PSHE and Lifeskills Programme and the College's cross curricular approach to PSHE and Lifeskills. This is in line with DfE guidance for drugs in schools.

<http://mentor-adepis.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/2004-Drugs-Guidance-for-Schools.pdf>

1.2. This policy covers all student incidents that happen on the College premises during the school day, off site and in transit to and from College.

### 2. Aims of this Policy

2.1. To give clarity to the College's commitment and expectations related to drugs, alcohol and tobacco (vaping/snus) use for all students.

2.2. To enable students, through the teaching of Wellbeing and pastoral support, to make the right and informed choices in relation to drugs, alcohol and tobacco (vaping/snus) use.

2.3. To give clear guidance and procedures for all students regarding drug, alcohol and tobacco (vaping/snus) misuse.

### 3. Rationale

3.1 Elizabeth College is committed to the health and safety of its students and will take action to safeguard their well-being at all times.

3.2 Elizabeth College is committed to tackling inappropriate drug, alcohol and tobacco (vaping/snus) use among young people and any instances of possession, use or supply of illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco (vaping/snus) on College premises will be regarded with the utmost seriousness.

3.3 Elizabeth College will be vigilant in the detection of illegal drug, alcohol and tobacco (vaping/snus) use by our students and will follow up all rumours/allegations of substance misuse.

3.4 Elizabeth College acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the general welfare and support of its students who may be involved in drug, alcohol and tobacco (vaping/snus) use.

3.5 Elizabeth College is committed to maintaining close liaison with appropriate external organisations, e.g. Guernsey Police, Action For Children, Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

### 4. Staff Responsibilities

4.1 Whilst students are at school, the College's teachers are regarded as being *in loco parentis*. This means that:



- the College's Principal and other teaching staff have a duty to act as prudent and careful parents at all times. This duty applies to all students entrusted to their care in accordance with each student's needs
  - the parent delegates to the teacher "all his own authority, so far as it is necessary for the welfare of the child".
- 4.2 Where a teacher suspects that a student or students in his/her care may be using drugs, alcohol and tobacco (vaping/snus), the teacher's primary responsibility must be for the health, safety and welfare of the students, including the protection of those students who may not be involved in the abuse.
- 4.3 Although the teacher is *in loco parentis*, it is important that they must inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL), who will involve a student's parents as appropriate.
- 4.4 Any suspicion of misuse of drugs, alcohol and tobacco (vaping/snus) must be reported to the DSL who will initiate any required investigation. It is not the function of teachers to conduct an investigation into possible criminal activity, therefore, it is important to involve the police and/or the student's parents as soon as any use is established. This will be done by the DSL or DDSL.
- 4.5 When conducting a search of students' property it will be done in conjunction with DfE search and confiscation guidance, issued January 2018, which outlines the procedures the DSL/DDSL would need to follow in searching a student and alerting parents.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation>
- 4.6 A distinction must be drawn between incidents that are suspected to have taken place on school premises and during the school day and those that may have occurred off site outside school hours. Generally speaking, if an incident takes place at a time when the student is outside the College's jurisdiction, it is inappropriate for the school to investigate the matter. In that situation, the student's parent should be informed of the College's suspicions and, if appropriate, the police should be notified.

## 5. Procedures

- 5.1. Our policy is to encourage students to discuss their anxieties about drugs, alcohol and tobacco (vaping/snus) in confidence with a member of staff or other responsible adult. Matters brought into counselling in this way, in circumstances that are genuine, will not be subject to sanctions or adverse report.
- 5.2. Parents, likewise, are asked to inform a member of teaching staff at College if they have any reason to think that their child may be or may have been involved with drugs, alcohol and tobacco (vaping/snus) during the school holidays or at school. It is important that parents should not feel they have a conflict of interest in this respect.
- 5.3. Similarly, College recognises the value of working in partnership with parents in relation to the education and welfare of young people. We aim to maintain effective communication at all times and will involve outside agencies (including the police), for support and advice, where appropriate.



5.4. The College will investigate any rumour about involvement with drugs, alcohol and/or tobacco (vaping/snus). Investigations will be conducted fairly and parents will be kept informed.

## **6. Drugs**

6.1. Students are not permitted to be in the possession of or be under the influence of drugs in College, on College trips or at any time whilst travelling to and from College.

Please refer to Appendix 1

## **7. Alcohol**

7.1. Students are not permitted to be in the possession of or be under the influence of alcohol in College, on College trips or at any time whilst travelling to and from College.

Please refer to Appendix 2

## **8. Tobacco (including E cigarettes, vapes and snus)**

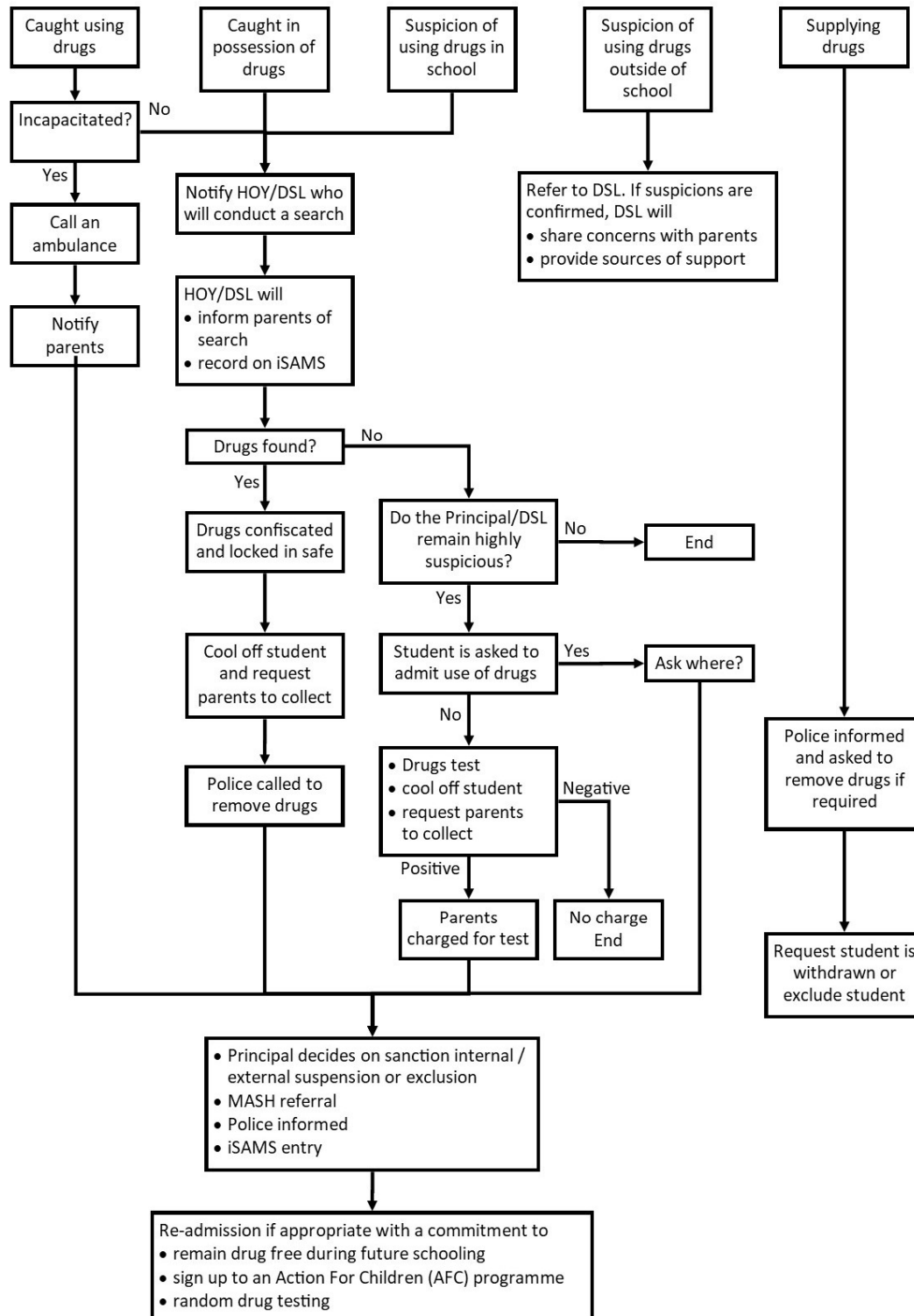
8.1. Students are not permitted to be in the possession of smoking paraphernalia in College, on College trips or at any time whilst travelling to and from College.

Please refer to Appendix 3



## Appendix 1 – Drugs

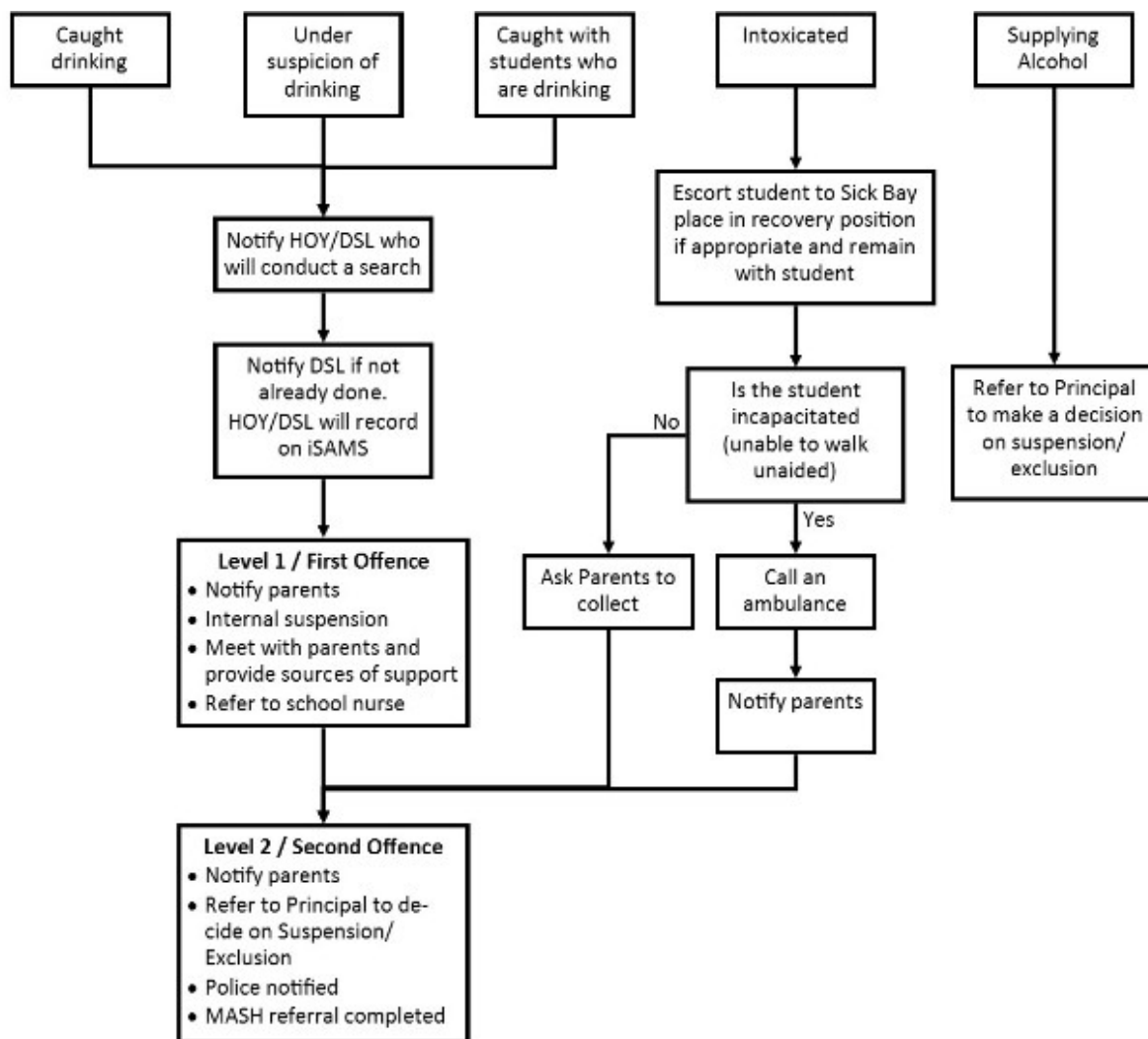
Students are not permitted to be in the possession of or be under the influence of drugs in College, on College trips or at any time when travelling to and from College.





## Appendix 2 – Alcohol

Students are not permitted to be in the possession of or be under the influence of alcohol in College, on College trips or at any time whilst travelling to and from College.

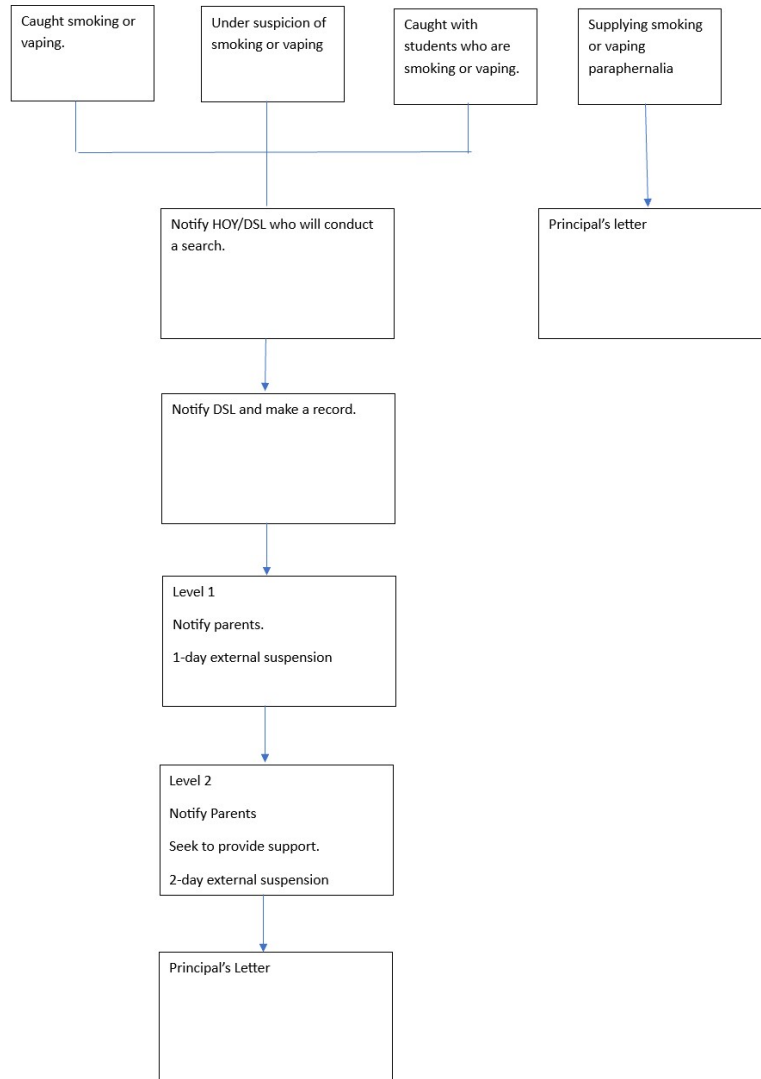


The nature of the offence and the age of the student will be taken into consideration. The Principal reserves the right to move students to level 2 regardless of the frequency of their offending.



## Appendix 3 - Tobacco (including E cigarettes and vaping)

Students are not permitted to be in the possession of smoking paraphernalia in College, on College trips or at any time whilst travelling to and from College.



The nature of the offence and the age of the student will be taken into consideration. The Principal reserves the right to move students to level 2 or beyond regardless of the frequency of their offending.